

simultaneously voting at town meetings to cooperate with other colonies in defending the liberties of British America. Bolton residents also voted to offer relief to Boston residents who were suffering from the harsh measures of the British Parliament. Finally, the people of Bolton agreed to create a committee of correspondence. The members of the committee included Thomas Pitkin, Esq., Ichabod Warner, Isaac Fellows, Samuel Carver, Jr., and Benjamin Talcott.

Today, Bolton is a thriving Connecticut town that has retained much of its historic character. The residents of Bolton are proud of the rural beauty with its rolling pastureland, its unspoiled town center and its historic homes. Above all, the residents cherish the intangible virtues of Bolton: the school system that emphasizes individual instruction, the hard-working residents who contribute so much to the community, and the direct democracy of the town meeting form of government first adopted in 1720.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate the 275th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Bolton, CT. I know they will continue their proud tradition on into the next century.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2735, THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE BASE CLOSURE RETIREMENT ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the House voted recently to approve the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's recommendations to close additional military bases in California with strong opposition from many in the California Congressional Delegation. We opposed the Commission's recommendations on national security grounds and because the economic impact—particularly on California—will be enormous.

We opposed the Commission's recommendations because we have very serious concerns about the effect of base closures on California's economy—particularly since our State has sustained a disproportionate number of job losses stemming from previous rounds of military base closures. Although there are no military bases slated for closure in my congressional district, I oppose the closures out of concern for the citizens of California who are being asked to bear a disproportionate burden of military downsizing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address an issue which I do not believe has received enough attention by the Congress. I am concerned that in the rush to close military bases we are forgetting about the impact of these decisions on the civilian employees who have dedicated their lives and their careers to strengthening and maintaining our Nation's defense. I am concerned about the impact of base closures on thousands of families of Federal workers who will lose their jobs as a result of downsizing. We must ensure that these employees receive job training and assistance in finding new jobs in the private sector.

We must also ensure that when we require employees to retire early we treat these employees in a fair and equitable manner. I am

particularly concerned about the fairness of forcing workers to retire early because of a base closure. Many of these workers will stand to lose substantial pension benefits through no fault of their own.

Mr. Speaker, we must look for ways to help soften the blow to families who will be adversely affected by military base closures. H.R. 2735, would ease some of the pain for Federal employees who are forced to retire early because of a base closure. My legislation would change language in existing law that penalizes Federal workers who are forced to retire involuntarily. As you know, current law requires that a Federal employee who retires early loses a considerable amount of his or her retirement earnings for each year he or she is under the age of 55. My legislation would reduce the penalty by one-half of an employee is forced to retire early because of a base closure.

I urge my colleagues not to forget the thousands of Federal workers who have dedicated their lives and careers to Government service. I urge you to support this important legislation.

BICENTENNIAL OF RANDOLPH COUNTY, IL

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bicentennial anniversary of Randolph County, IL; 200 years ago, on October 5, 1795, Gen. Arthur St. Clair, the Governor of the Northwest Territory, proclaimed the southwestern one-third of present day Illinois as Randolph County, with Kaskaskia as the county seat.

Randolph County, IL is recognized as the oldest organized government west of the Allegheny Mountains. The county has sent forth numerous legislators and leaders to serve in the early days of both the State of Illinois and the U.S. Government.

Its rich history also reflects a strong French influence. The two oldest French forts in the United States are located within Randolph County. Fort Kaskaskia and Fort de Chartres both overlook the Mississippi River and the city of Kaskaskia. In addition, the Liberty Bell of the West, cast in France in 1741, is located on Kaskaskia Island.

I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Randolph County and celebrating its historic heritage on the event of its 200th anniversary.

MS. MARY ELLEN HEISING HONORED FOR FEEDING THE HUNGRY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mary Ellen Heising, a woman who, for 20 years, has led the charge to end hunger in Santa Clara County, CA and across our Nation.

Ms. Heising joined the Food Bank of Santa Clara County in 1975, engineered a merger

with the Food Bank of San Mateo County and has served as Executive Director of the resulting Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties for the past 17 years. Today, Second Harvest is the seventh largest food bank in the Nation and helps feed as many as 183,000 people every month in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. It is arguably one of the most successful non-profit agencies around and deservedly received the nationwide Excellence in Food Banking Award as Food Bank of the Year in 1994.

Under Ms. Heising's skillful leadership, Second Harvest Food Bank runs some of the most innovative and effective programs to aid those in need. Ms. Heising began Operation Brown Bag, which provides a weekly bag of groceries to some 10,000 low-income seniors. It is the Nation's largest private supplemental food program. The Food Bank operates the Nation's biggest canned food drive too—involving 1,200 companies, 150 schools and thousands of individuals.

Those who know Mary Ellen Heising know that it is her spirit and dogged commitment to the welfare of our entire community that have made the Second Harvest Food Bank a success. She has helped thousands maintain health and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, this week at a luncheon in San Jose, CA, Ms. Heising is being honored by colleagues and friends for her intelligent and passionate leadership. I would like to invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me in expressing gratitude and appreciation to Mary Ellen Heising for her efforts.

IN HONOR OF THE CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH on its 50th anniversary.

This beautiful site is located on 450 acres of land in the southern part of my congressional district offering an incredible view of Mount Monadnock in the distance.

The Cathedral of the Pines was founded in 1945 by Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Sloane, in honor of their son, Lt. Sanderson Sloane. Lieutenant Sloane died in the service of his country in World War II. To commemorate his life, Dr. and Mrs. Sloane donated the land for a memorial that was erected in his honor and in honor of all who served their country.

The nondenominational Cathedral of the Pines sits atop the site where Lt. Sanderson Sloane had planned to build a home after the end of the war. Today, 50 years later, over 100,000 people a year visit this beautiful site to admire and experience the beauty, the calm, the splendor, and the grace of this wonderful site.

I was honored to participate in a recent ceremony commemorating the golden anniversary of the Cathedral of the Pines. This event featured the participation of 70 members of Lt. Sanderson Sloane's old unit, the 379th Bombardment Group. It was an event I will not soon forget.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of